

A
NARRATIVE
OF THE
Conversion
OF
Thomas Mackerneffe
Late of *MARCH*
IN THE
Jail of *ELB.*

Who was Condemn'd for
Robbery, &c. and Executed at
Wisbech, Aug. 19. 1694.

With an account of his *Penitential Behaviour*, and Discourses with the Ministers who came to visit him.

Publiſh'd by the Reverend Mr. *J. Burroughs* Minister at *Wisbech*.

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the *Raven* in the *Poultry*, 1694.

The Epistle
To the Inhabitants
of *Wisbech*, and
March, and *Towns*
Adjacent, with all
the Spectatours of
the *Tragical* End of
THOMAS MAC-
KERNESSE, Grace
Mercy, and Peace,
&c.

IT is not my Ambition to appear in
Print, that hath prompted me to
this Work; for none can be more
averse from such a thing than my
self,

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self, as too conscious of my Inability in that kind, but the Advice and Importunity of some, upon Considerations respecting Gods Glory and the Publick good and Interest of Souls, have compelled me to do what is otherwise contrary to my own Inclination; and indeed when I had pondered all the circumstances of that Affair, I am about to relate, and found, that the hand of God was eminently therein; that it was a rare and greatly affecting instance of Divine Power and Grace; that what hath already been openly known, hath made some awakening, and serious Impressions on the Minds of People, and knowing that no Body was so thoroughly acquainted with the whole as I am, Having spent much of my time with him in Prison for three or four Days, I do therefore for these, and other Reasons, present this following Narrative to the World.

The Lord knows my design purely is to Revive, and Inculcate more what you have either seen or heard of so wonderful a Providence. Oh that what

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I write may be as Goads and as Nails fastened by the Masters of Assemblies, Eccl. 12. 11. And I hope you that were the Visitors of this Poor Man, and you his Fellow-Prisoners, have not so soon forgot his Expressions at several times in your hearing. To the end they may never be forgotten by my self, nor you, I publish them. Let me appeal to your own Consciences, did not his Words, his Looks, his Actions declare, that he was in good earnest for Eternity? Ah! Death will make Men serious, when it shall please God to set the Consideration of it home upon the Heart of a Poor Sinner.

Cannot you remember how oft, some of you at least, have heard him admire the Grace of God, that touched his Heart with a feeling sence of his Sin? Did you never hear him say, I have a bleeding Heart for Sin? I am sure some of you did; Oh let there not be wanting in Wisbech Town, or Goal, Hearts bleeding for Sin, while there is a Heart there. What say you Sinners?
what

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what were your thoughts when you beheld this Poor Penitent? Did you think to continue in your Sins, or to forsake them? If the former, who can express and sufficiently lament the hardness of your Hearts, and misery of your State? But if the Latter, now put your then good Resolutions into Practice. Oh that Conviction and Conversion Work may not expire in Wisbech with this Poor Creature, but let the Exhortation he gave to some of you the Night before his Death, be ever in your Memories fresh, and lively. The Lord make it effectual to you, and all others that shall hear of it. Repent, said he, and turn to God speedily, Do not drive it off so late as I did. Let it be now. Mine is a late Repentance, though I hope not too late. He was convinced to the Quick, that in sound Conversion there must be Repentance towards God, as well as Faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and would oft say; I expect Salvation at the Hands of God, only for the sake of Jesus Christ, my sweet Saviour, that Immaculate Lamb: Yet must I earnestly seek, and beg
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it at his Hands, with a truly Penitent Heart, bleeding for Sin, and I hope I do; it is my earnest desire to do so. *Imitate him in this; may it not be in vain, that Providence brought him hither to suffer Condign Punishment, who had been once before condemned to die at Lincoln: Oh that this one Soul may be the first Fruits of a plentiful Harvest of Souls! So prays heartily,*

Tours Affectionately,

*Who would gladly spend
and be spent in the service
of precious Souls.*

J. B.

*A True and Impartial
Account of the Peni-
tential End of THO-
MAS MACKER-
NESSE.*

T*Thomas Mackernefs*, Late of
March in the *Iſle* of *Eley*;
was a Man of a moſt Profligate
and Heinouſly Wicked courſe
of Life. As to his Parentage and
Education, (being utterly a ſtranger
to him till after his Condemnation,) I can ſay nothing, nor is it much
material. But by his own Confeſſi-
on to me, and others, he was fa-
mous, or rather infamous for all man-
ner of Impieties; living many Years
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in such a Dissolute Flagitious and Atheistical way, as was extreemly hazardous to his Souls Eternal welfare, and exposed him to the fatal stroak of Justice, even from Men here : He told me, that for *Drunkenness, Swearing, Whoring and Theft*, none had exceeded him; that in these Capital and Epidemical Sins of the Age, it was not possible to apprehend how Notorious he had been : For of late Years especially, he had abandoned all fear and regard of God, giving himself wholly up to work Wickedness; and to use his own Phrase, *Had been the Devil's Pack Horse*; or in the *Apostles* stile, *Led captive by him at his will*. At last seized by the hand of Justice, and laid in the Goal at *Wisbech*, there he discovered the Hardness of his Heart, and Impenitency, by all the ways he was capable of in those Circumstances he was then in. Thus obdurate did the poor Wretch continue till the *Affizes*, and Sentence was passed on him; which was on *Wednesday the Fifteenth of August*
Last :

Last : I went not to Visit him till the *Saturday* Night after his Condemnation, being prevented by some Extraordinary Occasions.

When I first came into the Room, one was praying with him, and I observed him to be intent upon that great Work. After it was over, I entered into Discourse with him about his Soul concerns.

It was easie to discern by his *Looks* and *Expressions*, that he was under great Rebukes and Tumults within, from a *Guilty Conscience*. Sometimes his Countenance would be very Sad, Dejected and Disturbed, as Indicative of inward Horror, Gripes, and Struglings, fetching bitter Groans. Other-while he would speak with self abhorrence; charging Sin with vehement Indignation, and highest Aggravations of himself, saying, *What a vile Wretch have I been, for Lying, Swearing, &c.* and the other Sins

before mentioned, with utter neglect of God, and of his Sabbaths; there was not a Viler and more Wicked Wretch upon the Earth. He Listened Attentively. to Counsel, and said, he had too long turned away his Ear from hearing instruction. He Enquired sollicitously, how he might come to God: Said, that he was convinced it was his Duty to go to God, but How he should go, and in what manner, he added, I could instruct him better then he knew of himself. Now (said he) I am Resolved to Prepare my self for Dying, though at first, when I returned from the Place of Tryal, and Condemnation to Prison, many Vain Projects came into my Head of preventing my Execution: And truly (said he) all along I have cherished flattering, but false hopes of Escape, never once admitted a serious thought of Death; till I heard the Judge say, Mackerness, You shall Die: And then those Words struck me to the Heart, yet for a time I stifled that Alarm; till on a Sudden
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my Mind Labouring hard under many Temptations to the contrary, and overcoming them, I was fully determined to a Vigorous and Serious Application to the Things of another Life.

Hereupon I Endeavoured to help him what I could, in the Great work he had to do for his poor Soul; Desired, and Assisted him to look into himself, that he might discover the Vileness, and Deformity of his Depraved Nature, that Fountain of Corruption, from which all the Evil of his Life proceeded, spending some time in such Discourse as I thought most conducive, throughly to inform him of his Lost, Undone Estate, not without some fruit; I at last commended him to God by Prayer, so left him that Night, promising to come again the next Night.

Accordingly, I went, and found him at Prayer himself, and in much the same temper of Mind, though still
more

more hopeful. He declined a multitude, saying, *He desired no company, but that which might do his Soul good.* For now he found all was vanity, wished he had looked into his own heart, when he came first into Prison, and desired a few days longer to have prepared for Death, but, since that was impossible, feelingly declared, That the worst place in Hell would be too good for him, if he did not industriously improve every Minute of this little Time. In Prayer he did with great eagerness catch hold of the expressions I used, Repeating them over again with more than ordinary fervency : When I importunately begged of God, that those poor Sinners (including the rest of the Prisoners, and particularly that poor Woman that suffered with him), might be as Firebrands pulled out of the burning, he vehemently cried out, *Firebrands indeed Lord :* And when I added, A Christ, good God, for these miserable Souls, he cried aloud, *A Christ, and nothing but a Christ, weeping as he spake ;* with much more
to

to the like purpose, giving various expressions of a Heart, in some good measure broken with a true sense of sin and misery thereby, seeming desirous to speak with me alone, but could not that Night, by reason of much company, and therefore deferred it till Morning.

Coming again the next Morning, he did ingenuously open to me the state of his Soul, and acquainted me how Satan, that malicious and subtle Adversary, did watch for Advantages against him, to obstruct his Proceeding, in the great Business of his Soul's Salvation; manifested more Self-Detestation, accompanied with Pathetical and Ardent Longings after Christ. Now I observed in him some kindly Beginnings of True Repentance; which I laboured to Promote with utmost diligence. He shewed me several Books lent to him, concerning which he asked my Advice: My Reply was, That he had not time to Read Books, and that

that I judged it best to lay them all aside, except the Bible, and a little Book, Intitled, *A Guide for Heaven* ; because it contained Excellent Directions for a saving close with Christ.

I directed him to several Texts of Scripture, which I desired him to Peruse, and Meditate upon, in my absence : He thankfully accepted my Directions, and when I returned in the Evening, he saluted me on this manner, *Welcome, welcome Guest indeed ! I can now tell you, that you, and none but such as you are, that come to do my Soul good, are welcome to me.* One might read a marvelous change of his inward Disposition in his Countenance ; he seemed transported with more than ordinary sense of the Quickening and Comforting Influences of Divine Grace : *I have been considering (saith he) the Advice, you gave me, and Meditating on those Scriptures, you directed me to : And, Oh ! I see it*

it is nothing but a Christ will do me good: Oh the Sweet Promises that God hath made to Returning Sinners! Blessed be God I am out of Hell. I had thought I had been in Hell in the Night; I saw, as it were, Hell Gaping, the Devil Roaring, and my own Conscience Condemning me to the Pit of Hell; and indeed crying out with Horror, Blood gushed from my Nose: Some, that lay in the Room with me, said, I had been in a Slumber, whether I was, or no, I could not well tell, but thought I might be so. However, when I found my self out of Hell, Oh, how it affected me! Then he Wept and Melted kindly, saying, Oh, what a Wretch am I that I should Sin against so good a God, as this, who hath declared himself so ready to forgive! I am resolved to lie at his Feet: I am convinced that I am a lost undone Creature out of Christ: It is not all I can do, that will or can save me: Were I to Live my days over again, and spend them in nothing but Prayers and Tears, that could not Save me,

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no, it is nothing but the mercy of God in Christ, that must save me ; and upon this will I trust. I am resolved that at the last I will lay my self wholly at the Feet of God's Mercy in Jesus Christ, and there I will Die : This he uttered with raised and enlarged Affections. They have brought my Coffin, and I am not afraid to see it ; proceeded he, I thank God I can freely Lie down in it : These Shackles about my Leggs are, as if they were not ; I do not regard them. My Heart is so cheered with the consideration of the Pretious Promises God hath made to poor perishing Sinners ; and Why not to me ? And Why not to thee indeed said I. She Loved much, to whom much was forgiven : Ah Reply'd he, it is much must be forgiven me, Much indeed. More to this purpose passed between us : Several other Ministers were with him that Day, and Prayed with him as he told me, what Discourse they had with him I know not.

On *Tuesday* Morning, being the day before his Execution, after some Conference for the settling his Faith and Hope upon a right bottom, cautioning him against all the delusions of a subtile Tempter, and self-deceiving Heart, that he might not be confident in himself, or any thing else, but only in the sure Word of Truth, he broke out into a most *Pathetical Rapture*, not without a Flood of Tears, Admiring the Love of God to Man in Christ Jesus, so as was wonderful to behold, and next to inexpressible: Thus he continued for about a quarter of an hour, his Heart seemed, as if it would break in pieces before it could get vent, it seem'd to me impossible such Words, as then flowed from his Mouth, should proceed from any other than an Heart truly touched and broken with godly Sorrow, and that felt indeed, what the Love of God in Christ meant. Oh how did he abate himself, saying, *There was no*

*Creature upon Earth more loathsome ;
 than he was to himself by Reason of
 Sin, adding, He had been the Devils
 Vassal, and Drudge, hurried on by him
 to all manner of Evil, and that now
 God should touch his Heart with re-
 morse, make him sensible of his Sin,*
 he did admire with greatest thank-
 fulness. One sitting by, and speak-
 ing of *Assurance*, that Christians
 should labour for it, as a most ex-
 cellent thing, He answered, *If the
 Lord will not give me the assurance
 of the Pardon of my Sins before I die ;
 yet if he will but inable me to Hope in
 his Mercy, to seek him, wait, and trust
 in him, I will praise him.* I spent the
 greatest part of this day with him
 in *Prayer, Instruction, and Exhortation.*
 He was not without some damps
 upon his Spirit that Afternoon, sig-
 nifying his fear of miscarrying ; oft
 loading himself with his Sins, as
 exceeding the common size : And
 yet durst not but own, that the
 Merits of Christs Blood and Mer-
 cies of God through him, were in-
 finitely more and greater. Verily,
 it

it was marvellous to me, to observe the Methods of *Free Grace* with this Poor Man: How the Lord by a holy Fear and awakening Apprehensions of the evil of Sin, and eternal Misery, preserved him from carnal Security, and Presumption: And also upheld him from sinking into horrid Dispair, by letting out some Tokens of his Love, and Mercy to him, now and then. He was ever most humble, when most raised with any Hopes of finding acceptance with God through the Lord Redeemer.

Having left him three or four hours, in the Evening, I visited him again, at which time People came thronging into the Chamber, so as created some trouble to the Keeper; and He looking round on them, dropt several seasonable and weighty Exhortations to them, saying, *Come see the Fruit of Sin, and what it will bring you all unto, if you don't take warning by me, and turn to the Lord by true Repentance, I mean not,*
you

you shall all come to Shackles, and a Halter, but to such an Hell in your Consciences. Oh, I have felt a Hell in my Conscience. Then looking upon his Coffin, Ah, saith he, I am thinking a House, a Town, a Countrey, nay a Nation, could not hold me, not long ago, and to morrow I must be confined within the narrow limits of that little room. Look Sirs, what they that have most, must have at last but their length, a Coffin: Then shaking his Head, saith he, I may truly say with Solomon, All worldly things are but Vanity, and Vexation of Spirit, Vexation of Spirit indeed to me.

Spending again some time in calling upon God with, and for him, he was sweetly affected in the Duty, and cryed out, Lord, thou hast said, Whoso is weary and heavy laden, let him come to thee for rest for his Soul, and he shall find it. I am heavy laden with the Burthen of Sin, it is a heavy Burthen, that I have lain under these three, or four days, but
thanks

thanks be to God, it is lighter than it was, Lord, thou hast said, He that cometh to thee, thou wilt in no wise cast out.

It growing late, he desired the Company might be dismissed, and I left with him alone; I desired we might sing an Hymn before they went away, all readily assented to it, he joyned with us with a very audible and chearful Voice: After we had done, he said, *Blessed be God I can sing with chearfulness. Did you not Mind me, how chearfully I sang? My Heart is very much refreshed with the Consideration of Gods Mercy, so that it affected the Hearts of all that were present; there were not many dry eyes in the Room, though full of People, who were astonished at what they saw and heard. When all the Company was departed, he told me, his Companions, that came to visit him, said, Look, how he is fallen in two or three days, shaking his Head and lifting up his Hands, he retorted, Oh happy fall for me,*
would

would to God I had so fallen sooner ;
 Blessed be God for this fall, it is
 the happiest fall that ever I had :
 After a little pause, To Morrow,
 said he, my poor Soul must take its
 flight out of this Body ; Oh that it might
 fly into its Saviours bosome !

I signified to him, that I had
 thoughts of staying with him all
 Night, he told me he could have
 been glad of it ; but for some rea-
 sons we omitted it : He Prayed
 me to come Early in the Morning,
 and then not to leave him till I
 saw him Executed. He most Af-
 fectionately thanked me for the Ser-
 vice I had done him, praying God
 to reward me : I told him my
 work was wages, excusing my self
 that I came not sooner to visit the
 Prisoners, telling him, it was oft
 in my mind so to do, but a Sin-
 ful Shame prevented me ; Oh ! said
 he, Would to God you had come
 sooner : And truly I found a Gene-
 ral Acceptation among all the Pri-
 soners, beyond what I could ex-
 pect

pect ; I mention this only to encourage my Brethren in the Ministry to visit poor Prisoners. You cannot tell till you try how welcome you may be to such distressed Souls , and how serviceable for their Eternal welfare. The general greeting I had from this poor Prisoner after my second visit, was, *Welcome, Welcome.*

Here I cannot omit the Civility of Mr. *Bloodwick* , their Keeper , who did readily admit of any that might be helpful to the Souls of those under his charge ; and the peculiar excellency of Mrs. *Bloodwick* is worth taking notice of , by whose over-sight the Prison is kept with great neatness , whereas other Prisons are so filthy , as renders it very prejudicial to the Health of those that visit them ; here it is not so, the Nicest persons need not fear being offended with ill scents.

But to digress no further , I left him that Night , promising to be with him Early in the Morning :

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Soon

Soon after Four I went to him, we spent most of the time till Nine in Discourſing of what he had Read after I left him, and in Prayer : The frame of his Spirit ſtill remained Humble, Tender and in good meaſure : Spiritual Death and Judgment were now Solemn things in his Account and the thoughts thereof lively and influential on his whole deportment. He laboured with mighty concernedneſs how to *Die Well*, preſſed all about him with ſtrong Arguments to live better than he had done ; eſpecially he ſtrictly admoniſhed and charged his *Wife*, who had been a co-partner with him in all his villany, that ſhe ſhould immediately Reform, and what ſtraits ſoever ſhe came into, ſtill to depend upon, and truſt in God, following and ſerving him in ways of true Religion and Godly Fear, to keep her ſelf from the ſnares of evil company, which had been Ruinous to him, ſo dangerous to her already, and is one of the greateſt Engines of deſtruction the Devil uſes
in

in the World. Not only the Life of his own Soul was precious to him, but he shewed strange Zeal for the Salvation of others, pitied poor Sinners with bowels of Compassions, oft declaring his deep sense of their miserable state, who lived careless in the matters of their Souls Eternal Peace, and Comfort.

A little before Execution, enquiring of him what *Confession* he thought to make, he said, he was not inclined to speak much publicly in that respect, for this reason, *That he judged it useless, and at most would only gratifie some, who came for nothing else but to hear him tell a long Story of a Vicious Life, which was more likely to discompose his own mind, than tend to their Edification.* Moreover he said, *I cannot affect the Guilty, and for others, some may believe me, some may not: The Guilty know themselves. I will therefore leave them to God and their own Consciences, wishing them true Repentance, that they may never come to this miserable End.* He did not think fit to

go out of the World accusing others, whom he could no more than accuse, and neither bring them to deserved Punishment for what they had done, nor prevent thereby their proceeding in the same course of Wickedness: No, for (said he) God must convince them, and change their hearts, which he did, and would pray earnestly for to his last.

He was desirous to imploy all his little space in seeking God, and giving up himself to Jesus Christ in humble prayer; now and then saying, *Oh! my Time is short, within a few hours, yea moments, I shall be in Eternity; Adieu World!*

And thus he prepared himself to Embrace Death with comfort; for though any one might see great seriousness in all his Carriage, when going to the Place of Execution, and when there, yet as little sadness appeared, as ever did in any in his condition, that was not absolutely stupid, and insensible.

Request-

Requesting me oft not to leave him till Death separated us, I accompanied him to the Place of Execution, where I prayed with him, committing his Soul to God, he joyned with me with great Ardency: Then was sung the latter part of the 39th *Psalm* by his appointment; in singing whereof he seemed Elevated in Heart and Voice above most present. At last turning about and looking round on the multitude, he took his farewell in these words, or words to the like effect.

“ Gentle Spectators, You are come
 “ to see a sinful miserable wretch
 “ suffer this Ignominious Death; I
 “ thank God it is not terrible to me,
 “ for I trust that I shall find Mercy with
 “ God for my poor Soul, through
 “ the precious Blood of my sweet
 “ Jesus. You may see here what Sin
 “ will bring you to; Oh take warning
 “ by me; take heed of Sin; shun
 “ Temptations; *flee Evil Company*;
 “ beware of Sabbath-breaking, for by
 “ this Sin the Devil begins with many
 “ to

“ to draw them to all manner of
 “ Wickedness, so he did with me; Oh
 “ forsake all your Evil Ways! turn to
 “ the Lord, he is a gracious God. Oh
 “ vile Wretch! that I have so sinned
 “ against a holy, just and merciful God:
 “ I have been a *Prodigal* indeed, but I
 “ hope now a *Returning one*; Oh that
 “ they that have been my Companions
 “ in mischief, may repent before it be
 “ too late! I beg of them to fear
 “ God, and mind their Souls: There
 “ may be some of them that hear me
 “ at this time, the Lord touch their
 “ hearts: Oh do not still go on! you
 “ are known to God, who will call you
 “ to account for all one day: Think
 “ of it, I beseech you; the Lord give
 “ you Repentance, and Pardon your Sins,
 “ that you may not come to this mis-
 “ erable End you see me come to. With
 more to the like purpose.

Then Resigning himself to God, and
 begging Acceptance with him, for the
 Merits of a Dear and Almsufficient Re-
 deemer, he Ended this Temporal and
 miserable Life.

Hitherto

Hitherto I have given a bare Historical Relation of what came within my own personal knowledge ; and I Appeal to God for my Fidelity in the whole : For, though in some things I may have varied from his precise words, (which yet I have stuck to as much as is possible) I dare confidently affirm, that I have not departed from his Sense, and the truth in any thing. Only let me add farther a few Observations for Spiritual improvement ; as, what may from the Preceding Narrative be inferred.

First, That when God sets sin upon the Conscience, and inlightens the mind to see its Guilt, the most obdurate sinner cannot withstand the Terrors of Divine Wrath : This was most plainly demonstrated in this Man's Case : He that had once made a mock of Sin (as all ungodly Fools do) and no fear of the Great and Terrible Majesty of an Infinitely Holy, Just and Omnipotent God, did lay constraint upon him ; but in contempt of Hell and all the Threatnings of Eternal Divine Displeasure, swaggered
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it out in those Ways that lead directly to Eternal perdition, till the Lord graciously let in some beams of Holy Light into his Soul; then how horrid were his Sins? and how dreadful the apprehension of their just desert! Oh, the Agonies that I saw him in! How did he Tremble? And the thoughts of having to do with an Angry Almighty God, will shake the Hearts of the stoutest Sinners; for, *Who knows the power of his Wrath? Who can dwell with Everlasting burnings?*

Secondly, That when Men come once seriously to consider Death, Judgment and a future State, the necessity of a Christ for their Souls, will presently and evidently appear to them: Did not Men cast these out of their Thoughts, it could not be that they should live at ease; set so light by a Saviour as the generality of them do. Alas! Men put the evil Day far from them, and look upon Death, Judgment and things of another World, as at a vast distance; or at most not absolutely certain, and so their *Preparations* for Eternity are but Languid, Remiss, Heart-

Heartless and Insignificant: But let Death look them in the Face, and their Minds be possessed with Sober, Lively, Believing Apprehensions of the grand important matters of a World to come; then give them a Christ, and nothing but a Christ is the loud and earnest cry of their Souls. Oh, the worth, excellency and necessity of that precious Christ that they had long before vilified and rejected!

Thirdly, If the Lord please to put a poor Sinner upon solicitous care and concern for Saving the Soul, no means will be neglected, no diligence in the use thereof wanting for that end; especially they will be much in Prayer: Cry out and mightily to the Lord for Grace and Mercy: Give God and their own Souls no rest, till they find both. Nothing more remarkable than this in the present instance, What a price did he set upon Prayer? as appears by this, that he gladly accepted the Prayers of any, though of never so mean capacity; and though at first he could only Pray with others help, yet upon my pressing him to exercise himself in Prayer,

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using his own expressions, and telling him (when he pleaded he could not Pray without help) that a due sight and sense of our Sins, Wants and Miseries, would find us matter enough for, and open our Mouths wide in Prayer. He acknowledged he wanted not words to plead with the Judge for his Life, accepted my Counsel, set upon the Duty, found assistance and comfort therein; told me when I came next to him, *I thank God now I can Pray*: And I have heard him with Ardour of Affection make his Address to God. No time, no pains were now too much for making his peace with God, obtaining pardon of sin, and working out his Salvation. But alas! is it not a sad, and too certain a sign, that few are as solicitous as they ought for their Souls. Would there then be so many Prayerless persons and families in the World? Would God's Holy Day, Word and Worship, and Necessary Means of Grace be so neglected? Oh! that in *Worcester*, and every place there may be more Praying, Striving and Running in the ways of Gods Ordinances for Heaven; that

that they would testify abundantly that they are in good earnest to provide for their Souls, and that the one thing necessary is their chiefest business and only weighty concernment in this Life.

Fourthly, They that apprehend the Mercy of God in Christ aright, will look upon him as a most holy and *Righteous* God also: They'll not set Free Grace, and the Infinite Riches of his Mercy in opposition to his Justice, but admire and adore his Grace the more, by seeing a full satisfaction to his Justice in the Blood of his own dear Son of indispensable necessity. Scarce did any more magnifie the Love and Free Grace of God to sinners, than he; Blessing the Lord with admiration, that his Mercies were so infinite, Compassions boundless; yet had he an Eye upon his *Righteousness*, and severest Justice: Oft, when speaking how gracious God is, and merciful to poor sinners, such as he was; he would add, He is a just God too. Yea indeed he will be just, as well as merciful; and therefore he is merciful in Christ only, who can


satisfie his Justice: Oh that Sinners therefore would not presume upon the meer Mercy of God, contenting themselves with a general Notion, that God is merciful, and so will save them: For all the Mercy and Grace in God, will never save one Soul, but as it Runs through the Lord Jesus Christ, the only proper Channel of its Conveyance to humble penitent believing Sinners. 'Tis Christ alone, who by the Sacrifice of himself hath made Attonement for Sin, paid a Price adequate and satisfactory to Infinite Justice, born the Curse, fulfilled the Righteousness of the Law, for the Justification and Salvation of those, who believe in him, and obey his Gospel.

To conclude: Receive a word of Exhortation; Up and be doing; omit no opportunity; spare no industry for securing the Eternal Interest and Happiness of your Souls; let not the awakening Call of this sad and Dismal Providence prove in vain, to any, whose Eyes or Ears, it hath already, or hereafter may Reach: Awake, awake, secure Sinners, and know the Day of God's
Patience,

Patience, and Long-suffering towards
 you, that you may be prepared for, and
 safe in the Day of his Vengeance. O
 Sirs! the Judge is at the Door; the
 Great and Terrible Day of the Lord
 is nigh, to every one of you: Search
 your Consciences: *T*ⁿ the State of
 your Souls: How do you think to
 stand before the Dreadful Tribunal of
 the Great God? Is Arraignment and
 Condemnation, at an Earthly Bar, and
 the Execution of Man's Sentence, so
 Amazing and Terrifying, what will it
 be then, to be Tryed, and Cast Eter-
 nally, by the Great and Righteous
 Judge of Heaven and Earth? O trifle
 not with Eternity! But again, search
 your Hearts and Consciences: *If our*
heart condemn us, God is greater than our
heart, and knoweth all things; But if our
hearts condemn us not, then have we con-
fidence towards God. O fly to Christ!
 accept of him upon Gospel-Terms;
 there is no escaping the Wrath to
 come, but by an Interest in him; make
 sure of it then, and live not without a
 Christ, that you die not without a
 Christ: Die in your sins, and so die
 eternal-

eternally. If the Lord will bless, and make this useful for the Conversion of any Soul ; give God the sole Praise, and Glory. *Amen.*

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